

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/193,751, filed July 10, 2002, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/940,868, filed August 27, 2001, now U.S. Pat. 6,509,160, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/412,246, filed October 5, 1999, now U.S. Pat. 6,291,181, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/008,094, filed January 16, 1998, now U.S. Pat. 6,027,894, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No.: 08/485,606, filed June 7, 1995, now U.S. Pat. 5,710,000, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/307,881, filed September 16, 1994, which is are hereby incorporated by reference in its their entirety for all purposes.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 36 with the following amended paragraph:

Oligonucleotide probes have long been used to detect complementary nucleic acid sequences in a nucleic acid of interest (the "target" nucleic acid). In some assay formats, the oligonucleotide probe is tethered, *i.e.*, by covalent attachment, to a solid support, and arrays of oligonucleotide probes immobilized on solid supports have been used to detect specific nucleic acid sequences in a target nucleic acid. See, e.g., U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/082,937 (currently abandoned), filed June 25, 1993, which is incorporated

herein by reference. Others have proposed the use of large numbers of oligonucleotide probes to provide the complete nucleic acid sequence of a target nucleic acid but failed to provide an enabling method for using arrays of immobilized probes for this purpose. *See* U.S. Patent Nos. 5,202,231 and 5,002,867.